

Application of: Romel KHAN, et al.  
Serial No. 09/683,753  
Filed: February 11, 2002  
Reply to Office Action of June 1, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a switch to control redundant signaling operations, the computer program code mechanism comprising:

a first computer code device configured to identify a first switch for which a second switch is to act as a backup, wherein the first and second switches are remotely located and independently addressable with unique first and second addresses, respectively, when the first and second switches are not experiencing difficulty;

a second computer code device configured to receive periodic messages indicating that the first switch is functioning properly;

a third computer code device configured to receive a message indicating that the first switch is experiencing difficulty; and

a fourth computer code device controlling the second switch configured to emulate the unique first address of the first switch and route calls on behalf of the first switch when the first switch is experiencing difficulty, wherein the first and second switches are remotely located and independently addressable.

2. (Original) The computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the third computer code device configured to receive a message indicating that the first switch is experiencing difficulty comprises a fifth computer code device configured to receive a message indicating that the first switch is experiencing congestion.

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3. (Original) The computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the third computer code device configured to receive a message indicating that the first switch is experiencing difficulty comprises a fifth computer code device configured to receive a message indicating that the first switch is experiencing an error.

4. (Original) The computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the third computer code device configured to receive a message indicating that the first switch is experiencing difficulty comprises a fifth computer code device configured to receive a message intended for the first switch.

5. (Original) The computer program product as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a fifth computer code device configured to receive a message from the first switch when the first switch is no longer experiencing the difficulty.

6. (Original) The computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the third computer code device comprises a fifth computer code device configured to receive SS7 messages.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as claimed in claim 6, wherein the fifth computer code device comprises a sixth computer code device configured to receive SS7 messages using point codes as the unique first and second addresses.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second switches control first and second disjoint sets of voice

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gateways, respectively, when the first and second switches are not experiencing difficulty.

9. (Original) The computer program product as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a fifth computer code device configured to enable the second switch to control both of the first and second sets of voice gateways when the first switch is experiencing difficulty.

10. (Currently Amended) A switch for use in a packet voice environment, the switch comprising:

a memory to identify another switch for which the switch is to act as a backup,  
wherein the another switch and the switch are remotely located and independently addressable with unique first and second addresses, respectively, when the first and second switches are not experiencing difficulty;

a first receiver configured to receive periodic messages indicating that (1) the another switch is functioning properly and (2) the ~~first~~ another switch is experiencing difficulty; and

a controller for controlling the switch to route calls on behalf of the another switch by emulating the unique first address of the another switch when the another switch is experiencing difficulty, ~~wherein the switch and the another switch are remotely located and independently addressable.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The switch as claimed in claim 10, wherein the receiver is configured to receive a message indicating that the ~~first~~ another switch is experiencing congestion.

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12. (Currently Amended) The switch as claimed in claim 10, wherein the receiver is configured to receive a message indicating that the first another switch is experiencing an error.

13. (Currently Amended) The switch as claimed in claim 10, wherein the receiver is configured to receive a message intended for the first another switch.

14. (Currently Amended) The switch as claimed in claim 10, wherein the receiver further comprises a decoder for receiving a message from the another first switch when the another switch is no longer experiencing the difficulty.

15. (Original) The switch as claimed in claim 10, wherein the receiver comprises an SS7 message receiver.

16. (Currently Amended) The switch as claimed in claim [[6]] 10, wherein the receiver comprises an SS7 message receiver using point codes as the unique first and second addresses.

17. (Currently Amended) The switch as claimed in claim 10, wherein the another switch and the switch control first and second disjoint sets of voice gateways, respectively, when the first and second switches are not experiencing difficulty.

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18. (Original) The switch as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a controller configured to enable the switch to control both of the first and second sets of voice gateways when the another switch is experiencing difficulty.